

# HEROES OF THE FAITH

## MOSES: The Priesthood's Cleanliness

### Chapter 22

22 February 2023



#### ➤ The LORD spoke to Moses. (vv. 1-33)

- ❖ This chapter continues God's directions for sanctity & cleanliness, which governed the priesthood.
- ❖ God provided Moses with further guidance for His priests.
- ❖ "...abstain from..." (v. 2)
  - ☐ Hebrew: *nazar* (נָזַר) – The word from which Nazarite is derived.
  - ☐ Nazarite: One consecrated; one separated.
  - ☐ The Nazarite kept himself away from sin and uncleanness (Numbers 6:1-6).
  - ☐ The Nazarite kept himself holy in respect to those things.
- ❖ God demanded purity from His priests. (v. 3)
- ❖ That expectation would extend to every generation.
- ❖ The priest was to be holy before God. Consecrate the people's sacrifices.
- ❖ Treat Israel and their sacrifices with respect.
- ❖ A priest's responsibility regarding uncleanness. (vv. 4-8)
  - ☐ Conditions when one could not eat the holy things.
    - One who had a leprous disease, or a physical discharge. (v. 4)
    - One who touched anything that was unclean, or anyone who touched the dead.
    - A man who had an emission of semen.
    - Touched a swarming thing. (v. 5)
    - Touched an unclean person.
    - The priest in one of these conditions would be unclean until evening. (v. 6)
    - He could not eat the holy things, unless he bathed his body in water.
    - At sunset, he would be clean. Afterward, he could again eat holy things. (v. 7)
    - He could not eat any dead animal. An animal killed by a wild beast, so he could remain clean. (v. 8)
- ❖ God demanded His priests obey and follow Him. (v. 9)
- ❖ The priesthood was divine, and not to be trifled with.
- ❖ To not live in obedience to God, meant death.
- ❖ To disobey God, meant to profane His holy name.



- ❖ A lay person – foreign guest of the priest, or hired worker - could not eat of the holy things. (v. 10)
- ❖ A priest's slave could eat of holy things. (v. 11)
- ❖ Anyone born in his house may eat of his food.
- ❖ A priest's daughter who married a layman could not eat of holy things. (v. 12)
- ❖ A priest's widowed daughter, who returned to his home, could eat the priest's food. (v. 13)
- ❖ A divorced priest's daughter, with no child, who returned home could eat the priest's food.
- ❖ No lay person could eat of the holy things.
- ❖ If anyone unintentionally ate holy things, he added a fifth of its value to it & gave it to the priest. (v. 14)
- ❖ The priests could not profane Israel's holy things, which they contributed to God. (v. 15)
- ❖ By doing so, brought sin, guilt, and shame to God, themselves, & their family. (v. 16)
- ❖ God continued to speak about acceptable offerings. (vv. 17-25)
  - ☐ Moses relayed God's commands to Aaron, his sons, & all the people. (v. 18)
  - ☐ God directed His expectations to Israel, and sojourners in the lands.
  - ☐ He conveyed his thoughts regarding both burnt and freewill offerings.
  - ☐ Acceptable offerings would be... (vv. 19-25)
    - ...an animal – bulls, sheep, or goats - without blemish. (vv. 19-20)
    - ...a peace or freewill offering had to be perfect – without blemish. (v. 21)
    - ...God would not accept an animal sacrifice with defects. (v. 22)
    - ...a freewill offering God would allow near perfection. (v. 23)
    - ...a vow offering God wouldn't allow any physical defects in animal sacrifices.
    - ...animals without physical imperfections. (v. 24)
    - ...animals from foreigners without blemish offered to Him. (v. 25)
- ❖ God conveyed still more insight. (vv. 26-31)
  - ☐ An ox, sheep, or goat was an acceptable food offering on the eighth day of life. (v. 27)
  - ☐ God would not permit Israel to kill an ox, or sheep, and her young, in one day. (v. 28)
  - ☐ A thanksgiving sacrifice had to meet God's demands. (v. 29)
  - ☐ That sacrifice had to be eaten on the same day it was sacrificed. (v. 30)
  - ☐ God expected Israel to obey His commands in every aspect of life. (v. 31)
  - ☐ Proper worship to God was essential to God being magnified among His people. (v. 32)
  - ☐ Remember... (v. 33)
    - ...Genesis 2:15 & 1 Corinthians 10:31.
    - ...Israel's love for God was found in their obedience to God.
    - ...proper worship to God from a right personal relationship with God.
    - ...Exodus 20:3-5a.



## Group Questions

1) Read Genesis 4:1-7. This passage relates perfectly to what is discussed in this chapter regarding an acceptable offering. Apply the given Bible study method to this text and allow God to shed new light on the meaning you find.

- Observation: “What do you see?”
- Interpretation: “What does it mean?”
- Application: “How do I apply it to my life?”

2) Read Genesis 22:1-2, 5-14. Abraham provides a living example of one who is fulfilling his biblical purpose – Genesis 2:15 & 1 Corinthians 10:31 - in life. Read the narrative and discuss the tenets you see displayed there using the Bible study steps found below.

- Observation: “What do you see?”
- Interpretation: “What does it mean?”
- Application: “How do I apply it to my life?”

3) Read Exodus 34:14. God defines both worship and misplaced worship in this verse. Below, I have given you the Hebrew meaning for worship. Carefully consider the meaning and delineate the significance of misplaced worship,

- “...worship...” – to prostrate; bow down to; pay homage to; do reverence to

